

Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06

CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 TAR-01 STR-04 FEA-01

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R 241405Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8437

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

UNCLAS QUITO 9374

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD EGEN PFOR EC

SUBJECT: ECUADOREAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SENT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE DECEMBER 22, 1975, TO PRESIDENT GERALD FORD. IT WAS DELIVERED TO WHITE HOUSE DECEMBER 23 BY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE IN LATIN AMERICA (ACCLA) WASHINGTON OFFICE.

2. QUOTE

PRESIDENT GERAALD FORD 22 DECEMBER 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

THE ECUADOREAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AN AFFILIATE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE IN LATIN AMERICA, PROTESTS THE EXCLUSION OF ECUADOR FROM THE TRADE BILL OF 1974 AND FROM THE LIST OF PRODUCTS FROM UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHICH MAY ENTER THE UNITED STATES
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DUTY FREE.

3. THE ECUADOREAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPRESENTS THE MAJORITY OF THE AMERICAN COMPANIES OPERATING IN ECUADOR AND OF THE ECUADOREAN COMPANIES THAT HAVE RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. AMONG ITS OBJECTIVES IS THE PROMOTION OF FREE COMMERCE AND GENERAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ECUADOR.

4. THE TRADE BILL OF 1974 (PGL 13) EXCLUDES ECUADOR, A MEMBER OF THE ORGANIZATION OF PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES (OPEC), FROM THE LIST OF COUNTRIES WHICH RECEIVE TARIFF PREFERENCES. THE BILL MAKES NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE MEMBER COUNTRIES TRADITIONALLY FRIENDLY TO THE UNITED STATES, AND THOSE WHICH PARTICIPATED IN THE OPEC EMBARGO. ECUADOR DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE EMBARGO. SHE HAS NEVER WITHHELD ANY OF HER NATURAL RESOURCES FROM THE UNITED STATES.

5. THIS CHAMBER HOLDS THAT THE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ECUADOR CONTAINED IN THE TRADE ACT, IS UNJUSTIFIED. IT FOSTERS A STRAINED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES, AND IT IS RESULTING IN A PRESS CONSTANTLY AND UNIFORMLY UNFAVORABLE TO THE UNITED STATES. THE OVERALL EFFECT OF THE BILL IS DECIDEDLY NEGATIVE.

6. WE RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT YOU URGE CONGRESS TO REFORM THE TRADE BILL OF 1974 SO THAT ECUADOR AND VENEZUELA, WHICH DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE BOYCOTT AGAINST THE UNITED STATES, BE REMOVED FROM SECTION 502 (B) (2) OF THAT LAW AND BE PERMITTED TO BENEFIT FROM ALL OF ITS PROVISIONS.

7. THIS RECOMMENDED CHANGE WILL RIGHT A WRONG. IT WILL HELP IN PROMOTING MORE FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN ECUADOR AND THE UNITED STATES. IT WILL STIMULATE COMMERCE AND STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

RESPECTFULLY YOURS,

ANTONIO GRANDA CENTENO RICHARD MOSS
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PRESIDENT VICE PRESIDENT
ECUADOREAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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Message Attributes

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